

# Charm of small $x$ neutrino DIS.

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## Abstract

Due to the weak current non-conservation the diffractive excitation of charm and strangeness dominates the longitudinal structure function  $F_L(x, Q^2)$  of neutrino DIS at small Bjorken  $x$ . Based on the color dipole BFKL approach we report quantitative predictions for this effect in the kinematical range of the CCFR/NuTeV experiment. We comment on the relevance of our findings to experimental tests of PCAC.

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**1. Introduction.** The neutrino deep inelastic scattering (DIS) at small values of the Bjorken variable  $x_{Bj} = Q^2/2m_N\nu$  provides a useful tool for studies of fundamental properties of electro-weak (EW) interactions. In particular, the analysis of neutrino-nucleon cross sections at vanishing four-momentum transfer squared,  $Q^2$ , can be used to test the hypothesis of partial conservation of the axial current (PCAC) in the kinematical region of high leptonic energy transfer,  $\nu$ , [1, 2] (for theoretical introduction see [3]). The partial conservation hypothesis [4] connects via Adler's theorem [5] the longitudinal structure function (LSF) at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$  induced by the light-quark axial-vector current ( $ud$ -current) with the on-shell pion-nucleon total cross section,

$$F_L^{ud}(x, Q^2 \rightarrow 0) = \frac{f_\pi^2}{\pi} \sigma_\pi(\nu), \quad (1)$$

where  $f_\pi \simeq 130$  MeV is the pion decay constant (see [6] for more discussion on the origin of Eq.(1)). To test the Eq.(1) the structure function  $F_2 = F_L + F_T$  measured experimentally is extrapolated down to  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$  making use of the fact that the transverse structure function  $F_T$  for  $ud$ -current vanishes at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ . It is assumed that the contribution of the charmed-strange ( $cs$ ) current can be neglected. However, in [6] it has been pointed out that the non-conservation of both axial-vector and vector  $cs$  currents leads to the abundant production of charm and strangeness at  $Q^2 \lesssim m_c^2$  and for  $\nu$  well above the charm-strangeness mass threshold.

In this communication we analyze the charged current (CC) DIS in the color dipole (CD) representation of the small- $x$  QCD [7, 8] (for the review see [9]) with particular emphasis on the role of charm and strangeness in the nucleon structure probed by longitudinally polarized electro-weak bosons. We quantify the phenomenon of weak current non-conservation in terms of the light cone wave functions (LCWF) of  $|c\bar{s}\rangle$  and  $|u\bar{d}\rangle$  states in the Fock state expansion for the light cone EW boson. In Adler's regime of  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$  the strong un-equality of masses of the charmed and strange quarks manifests its effects and the CD analysis reveals the ordering of dipole sizes

$$m_c^{-2} < r^2 < m_s^{-2} \quad (2)$$

typical of the DGLAP [10, 11, 12] approximation. The multiplication of log's like

$$\alpha_S \log(m_c^2/m_s^2) \log(1/x) \quad (3)$$

to higher orders of perturbative QCD ensures the dominance of the charmed-strange component,  $F_L^{cs}$ , of the LSF

$$F_L = F_L^{ud} + F_L^{cs} \quad (4)$$

already at  $x_{Bj} \lesssim 0.01$ , in the kinematical domain covered by the CCFR/NuTeV experiment [13]. In presence of charm and strangeness the slope of  $F_2$  at small  $Q^2$  changes dramatically thus complicating the access to genuine PCAC component of  $F_2$ .<sup>1</sup>

**2. Dipole cross sections and light-cone density of  $c\bar{s}$  states.** When viewed in the laboratory frame the neutrino DIS at small  $x_{Bj}$  derives from the absorption of the quark-antiquark,  $u\bar{d}$  and  $c\bar{s}$ , Fock components of the light-cone  $W^+$ -boson. We focus on the vacuum exchange dominated leading  $\log(1/x)$  region of  $x \lesssim 0.01$  where the contribution of excitation of open charm/strangeness to the absorption cross section for longitudinal ( $\lambda = L$ ) and transverse ( $\lambda = T$ )  $W$ -boson of virtuality  $Q^2$ , is given by the color dipole factorization formula [18, 19, 7]

$$\sigma_\lambda(x, Q^2) = \int dz d^2\mathbf{r} |\Psi_\lambda(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 \sigma(x, r). \quad (5)$$

The interaction of the color dipole of size  $\mathbf{r}$  with the target nucleon is described by the CD cross section  $\sigma(x, r)$ . In the color dipole approach the BFKL- $\log(1/x)$  evolution [20] of  $\sigma(x, r)$  is described by the CD BFKL equation of Ref.[21]. For qualitative estimates the Double Leading Log Approximation (DLA) [10, 11, 12] is suitable. Then, for small dipoles [22]

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(x, r) &\approx \frac{\pi^2 r^2}{N_c} \alpha_S(r^2) \int_{\mu_G^2}^{A/r^2} \frac{dk^2}{k^2} \frac{\partial G(x, k^2)}{\partial \log k^2} \\ &\approx \frac{\pi^2 r^2}{N_c} \alpha_S(r^2) G(x, A/r^2), \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where  $G(x, k^2) = xg(x, k^2)$  is the gluon structure function and  $A \simeq 10$  [22]. We use the one-loop strong coupling  $\alpha_S(k^2) = 4\pi/\beta_0 \log(k^2/\Lambda^2)$  with  $\Lambda = 0.3$  GeV and  $\beta_0 = 11 - 2N_f/3$ . In the numerical estimates we impose the infrared freezing,  $\alpha_S(k^2) \leq \alpha_S^{fr} = 0.8$ . For large

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<sup>1</sup>Different aspects of the CC inclusive and diffractive DIS have been discussed in [14, 15, 16, 17].

dipoles,  $r \gtrsim r_S$ ,  $\sigma(x, r)$  saturates and the saturation scale,  $r_S$ , is as follows

$$r_S^2 = \frac{A}{\mu_G^2}, \quad (7)$$

where  $\mu_G = 1/R_c$  is the inverse correlation radius of perturbative gluons. From the lattice QCD studies  $R_c \simeq 0.2 - 0.3$  fm [23]. Because  $R_c$  is small compared to the typical range of strong interactions, the dipole cross section evaluated with the decoupling of soft gluons,  $k^2 \lesssim \mu_G^2$ , would underestimate the interaction strength for large color dipoles. In Ref.[24, 25] this missing strength was modeled by a non-perturbative, soft correction  $\sigma_{npt}(r)$  to the dipole cross section  $\sigma(r) = \sigma_{pt}(r) + \sigma_{npt}(r)$ . Specific form of  $\sigma_{npt}(r)$  was successfully tested against diffractive vector meson production data [26].

Denoted by  $|\Psi_\lambda(z, \mathbf{r})|^2$  in (5) is the light cone density of  $c\bar{s}$  states with the  $c$  quark carrying fraction  $z$  of the  $W^+$  light-cone momentum and  $\bar{s}$  with momentum fraction  $1-z$ . In particular,  $|\Psi_L|^2$  in Eq.(5) is the incoherent sum of two terms, the vector,  $V_L$ , and the axial-vector,  $A_L$  [14, 27],

$$|\Psi_L(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 = |V_L(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 + |A_L(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 \quad (8)$$

with [14, 27]

$$|V_L(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 = \frac{2\alpha_W N_c}{(2\pi)^2 Q^2} \left\{ \left[ 2Q^2 z(1-z) + (m_c - m_s)[(1-z)m_c - zm_s] \right]^2 K_0^2(\varepsilon r) + (m_c - m_s)^2 \varepsilon^2 K_1^2(\varepsilon r) \right\} \quad (9)$$

$$|A_L(z, \mathbf{r})|^2 = \frac{2\alpha_W N_c}{(2\pi)^2 Q^2} \left\{ \left[ 2Q^2 z(1-z) + (m_c + m_s)[(1-z)m_c + zm_s] \right]^2 K_0^2(\varepsilon r) + (m_c + m_s)^2 \varepsilon^2 K_1^2(\varepsilon r) \right\}, \quad (10)$$

where  $\alpha_W = g^2/4\pi$  and the weak charge  $g$  is related to the Fermi coupling constant  $G_F$ ,

$$\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{g^2}{m_W^2}. \quad (11)$$

Hereafter,  $m_c$  and  $m_s$  are the quark and antiquark masses<sup>2</sup> and  $\varepsilon^2$  which controls the transverse size of  $c\bar{s}$  and, with obvious substitutions, of  $u\bar{d}$  dipoles is as follows

$$\varepsilon^2 = z(1-z)Q^2 + (1-z)m_c^2 + zm_s^2 \quad (12)$$

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<sup>2</sup>In this paper we deal with constituent quarks in the spirit of Weinberg [28]. The renormalization of the axial charge  $g_A$  is neglected here and the ratio  $g_A/g_V$  for constituent quarks is assumed to be the same as for current quarks,  $g_A = g_V = g$ .

The terms proportional to  $K_0^2(\varepsilon r)$  and  $K_1^2(\varepsilon r)$  describe the quark-antiquark states with the angular momentum  $L = 0$  (S-wave) and  $L = 1$  (P-wave), respectively. The weak current non-conservation shows up in terms  $\propto m_c^2/Q^2$  and  $m_s^2/Q^2$  which dominate both the vector  $|V_L|^2$  and axial-vector  $|A_L|^2$  density of states at small  $Q^2$ . The P-wave component of  $|\Psi_L|^2$  arises only due to the current non-conservation.

**3. Qualitative estimates. DLLA.** The absorption cross sections for longitudinal EW bosons,  $\sigma_L$ , defined by the Eq.(5) can be converted into the structure function  $F_L$ ,

$$F_L(x, Q^2) = \frac{Q^2}{4\pi^2\alpha_W}\sigma_L(x, Q^2), \quad (13)$$

Let us start with  $F_L^{cs}(x, Q^2)$  at large  $Q^2$ . At  $Q^2 \gg m_c^2$  the P-wave component of  $|\Psi_L|^2$  proportional to  $K_1^2(\varepsilon r)$  vanishes approximately as  $(m_c^2/Q^2)\log(Q^2/m_s^2)$  and the structure function  $F_L^{cs}$  is dominated by the S-wave component represented by the terms  $\propto K_0^2(\varepsilon r)$ . The asymptotic behavior of the Bessel function,  $K_{0,1}(x) \simeq \exp(-x)\sqrt{\pi/2x}$  makes the  $\mathbf{r}$ -integration in Eq. (5) rapidly convergent at  $\varepsilon r \gtrsim 1$ . For  $Q^2 \gg m_c^2$ , the product  $\alpha_S(Q^2)G(x, Q^2)$  is flat in  $Q^2$ . Then, integration over  $\mathbf{r}$  yields a broad symmetric  $z$ -distribution

$$\begin{aligned} F_L^{cs} &\sim Q^4 \int_0^1 dz \frac{z^2(1-z)^2}{\varepsilon^4} \alpha_S(\varepsilon^2) G(x, A\varepsilon^2) \\ &\sim \alpha_S(\overline{\varepsilon^2}) G(x, A\overline{\varepsilon^2}), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where  $\overline{\varepsilon^2} \sim Q^2/4$  corresponds to the “non-partonic” domain of  $z \sim 1/2$ . Similar to the LSF of the muon induced DIS ( $\mu$ DIS) [10, 29, 30], the LSF of neutrino DIS ( $\nu$ DIS) is dominated by  $r^2 \sim 1/Q^2$  and provides a direct probe of the gluon density  $G(x, Q^2)$  [15]. The S-wave component of  $F_L^{cs}$  decreases with decreasing  $Q^2$ , as shown in Fig. 1 by the solid line, but contrary to the  $\mu$ DIS it does not vanish at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$  because of the current non-conservation generated by the mass terms in Eqs.(9,10). Deviations from the symmetric  $z$ -distribution do not lead to any sizable effects and  $F_L^{cs}$  in Eq.(14) flattens at  $Q^2 \sim m_c^2$  (see Fig. 1).

At moderate  $Q^2 \lesssim m_c^2$  the P-wave component of  $F_L^{cs}$  (dashed line in Fig. 1) takes over. The P-wave density of  $c\bar{s}$  states is more singular at  $r \rightarrow 0$ ,  $K_1(\varepsilon r) \sim 1/\varepsilon r$ . Then, integration over  $\mathbf{r}$  in Eq. (5) leads to the  $z$ -distribution

$$\frac{dF_L^{cs}}{dz} \sim \frac{m_c^2}{Q^2 z(1-z) + (1-z)m_c^2 + zm_s^2} \quad (15)$$

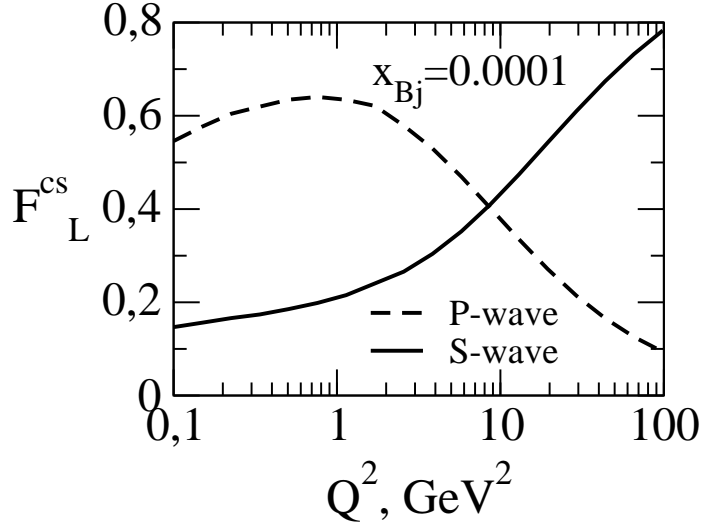


Figure 1: The charm-strange component,  $F_L^{cs}(x, Q^2)$ , of the longitudinal neutrino-nucleon structure function. Dashed curve corresponds to the P-wave contribution to  $F_L^{cs}$ , solid curve represents the S-wave component of  $F_L^{cs}$ . The sum of two terms,  $F_L^{cs} = P + S$ , is a slowly varying function of  $Q^2$ .

which develops the parton model peaks at  $z \rightarrow 0$  and  $z \rightarrow 1$  at asymptotically large  $Q^2$ . At  $Q^2 \lesssim m_c^2$  the  $z$ -distribution becomes highly asymmetric, only the peak at  $z \rightarrow 1$  survives,

$$\frac{dF_L^{cs}}{dz} \sim \frac{1}{1 + \delta - z}, \quad (16)$$

where  $\delta = m_s^2/(m_c^2 + Q^2)$ , so that the charmed quark carries a fraction  $z \sim 1 - \delta$  of the  $W^+$ 's light-cone momentum. With the Eq.(16) the origin of  $\log(m_c^2/m_s^2)$  in (3) becomes evident.

To clarify the issue of relevant dipole sizes one can integrate first over  $z$

$$\begin{aligned} F_L^{cs} &\sim \frac{2N_c}{(2\pi)^3} m_c^2 \int_0^1 dz \int_0^{1/\varepsilon^2} \frac{dr^2}{r^2} \sigma(x, r) \\ &\sim \frac{2N_c}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{m_c^2}{m_c^2 + Q^2} \int_{1/(m_c^2 + Q^2)}^{1/m_s^2} \frac{dr^2}{r^4} \sigma(x, r), \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where the factor 2 is due to the additivity of  $V$  and  $A$  components of  $F_L^{cs}$ . For numerical estimates we note that at  $x \sim 0.01$  and moderate  $Q^2$  the Born approximation (the two-gluon exchange) gives the results which are not unreasonable phenomenologically [7]. For small dipoles the 2g-exchange yields  $\sigma(r) \sim \pi C_F \alpha_S^2 r^2 \log(r_S^2/r^2)$  and the interpolating function is

$$\sigma(r) \sim \pi C_F \alpha_S^2 r^2 \log \left( 1 + \frac{r_S^2}{r^2} \right). \quad (18)$$

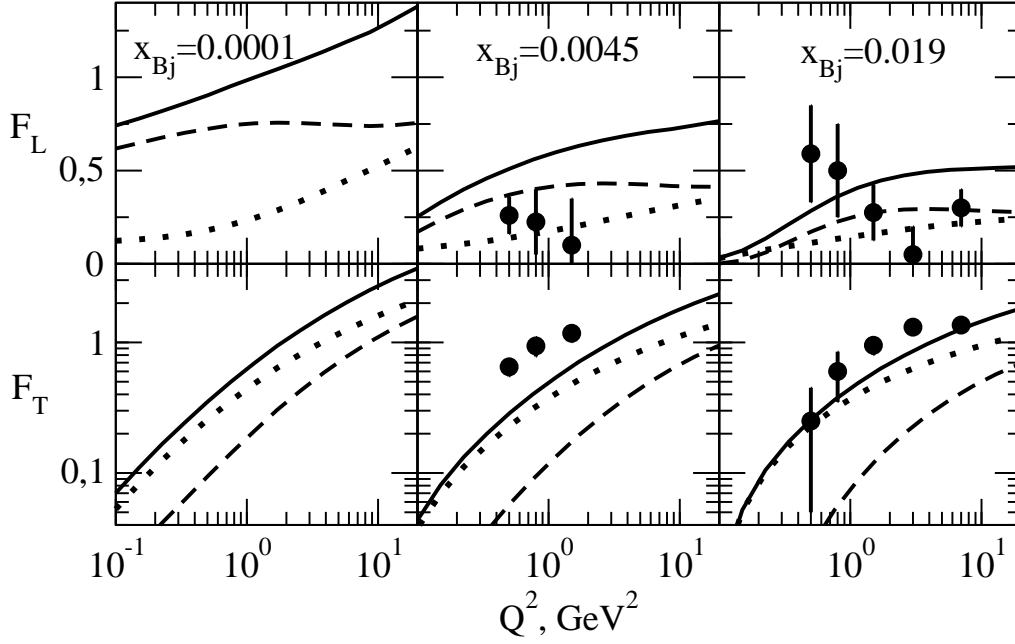


Figure 2: Data points are CCFR measurements of  $F_L$  and  $F_T = 2xF_1$  [13]. Solid curves show the vacuum exchange contribution to  $F_L$  and  $F_T$  in  $\nu Fe$  interactions. Shown separately are the charm-strange (dashed curves) and light flavor (dotted curves) contributions to  $F_L$  and  $F_T$ . Also shown are the predictions for  $F_L$  and  $F_T$  at  $x_{Bj} = 10^{-4}$ .

Then, for the charmed-strange component of  $F_L$  one gets

$$F_L^{cs} \sim \frac{N_c C_F}{4} \frac{m_c^2}{m_c^2 + Q^2} \frac{1}{2!} L^2, \quad (19)$$

where

$$L = \frac{\alpha_S}{\pi} \log \left( \frac{m_c^2 + Q^2}{m_s^2} \right) \quad (20)$$

Here,  $m_s^2$  introduces the infrared cutoff and stands, in fact, for  $\max\{m_s^2, r_S^{-2}\}$  where  $r_S^{-2}$  comes from Eq.(7). In our numerical estimates the constituent strange quark mass equals to  $m_s = 0.3$  GeV and is close to  $r_S^{-1}$ .

There is also a contribution to  $F_L^{cs}$  from the region  $0 < r^2 < (m_c^2 + Q^2)^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} F_L^{cs} &\sim \frac{2N_c}{(2\pi)^3} m_c^2 \int_0^1 dz \int_0^{1/(m_c^2 + Q^2)} \frac{dr^2}{r^2} \sigma(x, r) \\ &\sim \frac{N_c C_F}{4} \frac{m_c^2}{m_c^2 + Q^2} \left( \frac{\alpha_S}{\pi} \right)^2 \log [r_S^2 (m_c^2 + Q^2)] \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

which is short of one log, though. Notice the DLLA ordering of sizes

$$(m_c^2 + Q^2)^{-1} < r^2 < r_S^2, m_s^{-2} \quad (22)$$

announced in (2) and elucidated by Eqs.(17,21).

The rise of  $F_L^{cs}(x, Q^2)$  towards small  $x$  is generated by interactions of the higher Fock states,  $c\bar{s} + gluons$ , of the light-cone W-boson. Making use of the technique developed in Ref.[7] one can estimate the leading contribution to  $F_L^{cs}$  associated with the Fock state  $c\bar{s} + one\ gluon$ . The result is

$$\delta F_L^{cs} \sim \frac{N_c C_F C_A}{4} \frac{m_c^2}{m_c^2 + Q^2} \log\left(\frac{x_0}{x}\right) \frac{1}{3!} L^3 \quad (23)$$

with  $C_A \log(x_0/x)L$  as the DLLA expansion parameter. The slope parameter

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{3} C_A L$$

is rather large,  $\Delta \simeq 0.3$  even at  $Q^2 = 0$  and we predict a rapid rise of  $F_L^{cs}(x, Q^2)$  towards the region of small  $x$ .<sup>3</sup>

Our crude estimate of the P-wave contribution to  $F_L^{cs}(x, 0)$  given by Eqs.(20,21,23),  $F_L^{cs} + \delta F_L^{cs} \simeq 0.4$  at  $x \simeq 10^{-4}$  and  $x_0 = 0.03$ , is compatible with the results of the CD BFKL analysis shown in Fig. 1. For comparison, Adler's theorem gives for  $F_L^{ud}(x, 0)$  the value  $f_\pi^2 \sigma_\pi(\nu)/\pi \simeq 0.30 - 0.35$  and allows only a slow rise of  $F_L^{ud}(x, 0)$  with  $\nu \propto x^{-1}$ ,

$$F_L^{ud}(x, 0) \propto (1/x)^{\Delta_{soft}}, \quad (24)$$

where  $\Delta_{soft} \simeq 0.08$  comes from the Regge parameterization of the total  $\pi N$  cross section [31]. Therefore, the charmed-strange current dominates  $F_L$  at small- $x$ .

**4. Numerical results and discussion.** We evaluate  $F_L$ ,  $F_T$  and  $F_2$ ,

$$F_2(x, Q^2) = F_L(x, Q^2) + F_T(x, Q^2), \quad (25)$$

for the  $\nu Fe$  and  $\nu Pb$  interactions making use of the approach to nuclear shadowing developed in [25]. The  $\log(1/x)$ -evolution is described by the CD BFKL equation with boundary condition at  $x_0 = 0.03$ . In order to give a crude idea of finite energy effects at moderately

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<sup>3</sup>The DLLA resummation with the infrared cutoff  $\mu_G$  results in

$$F_L^{cs} \sim \frac{N_c C_F}{4} \frac{m_c^2}{m_c^2 + Q^2} L(m_c^2 + Q^2) \eta^{-1} I_2(2\sqrt{\xi}),$$

where  $I_2(z) \simeq \exp(z)/\sqrt{2\pi z}$  is the Bessel function,  $\xi = \eta L(m_c^2 + Q^2)$ ,  $L(k^2) = \frac{4}{\beta_0} \log[\alpha_S(\mu_G^2)/\alpha_S(k^2)]$  and  $\eta = C_A \log(x_0/x)$ .



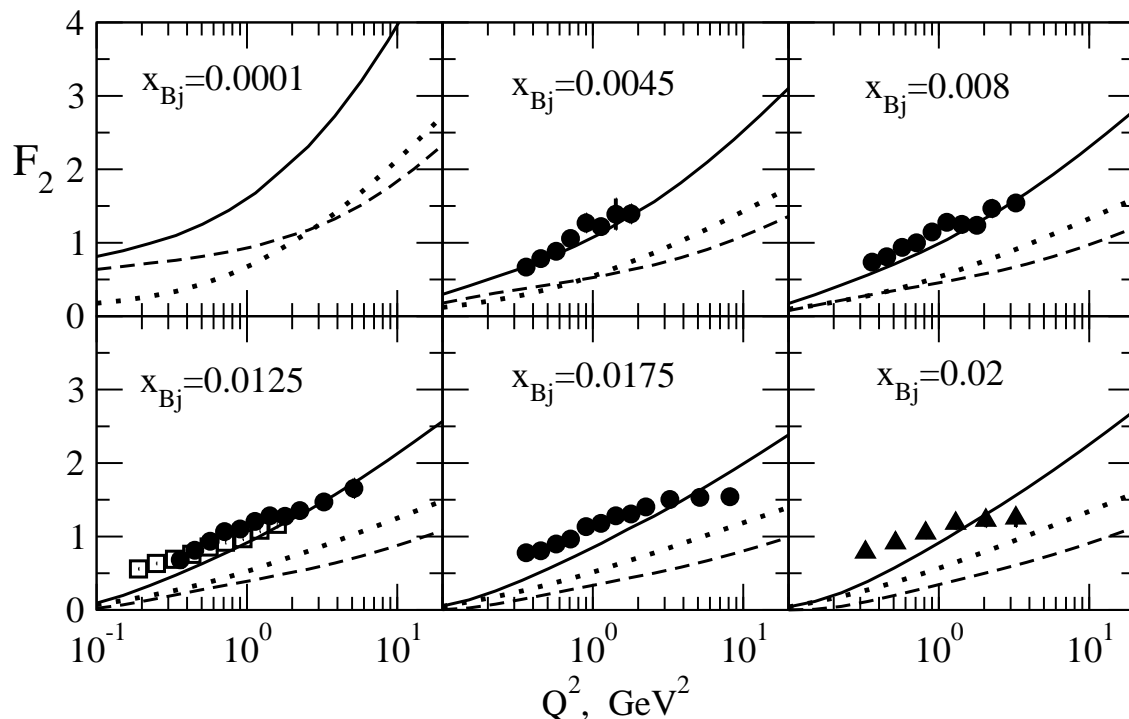


Figure 3: The nucleon structure function  $F_2(x, Q^2)$  at smallest available  $x_{Bj}$  as measured in  $\nu Fe$  CC DIS by the CCFR [2] (circles) and CDHSW Collaboration [32] (squares,  $x_{Bj} = 0.015$ ). Triangles are the CHORUS Collaboration measurements [33] of  $F_2$  in  $\nu Pb$  CC DIS. Solid curves show the vacuum exchange contribution to  $F_2(x, Q^2)$ . Also shown are the charm-strange (dashed curves) and light flavor (dotted curves) components of  $F_2$ .

small  $x$  we stretch our estimates to  $x > x_0 = 0.03$  multiplying the above CD cross sections by the purely phenomenological factor  $(1 - x)^5$  motivated by the familiar large- $x$  behavior of DGLAP parameterizations of the gluon structure function of the proton. Here  $x$  makes sense of the gluon momentum fraction and equals to  $x = x_{Bj}(1 + M^2/Q^2)$  for  $Q^2 \lesssim M^2$ . For  $Q^2 \gtrsim M^2$ ,  $x = 2x_{Bj}$  what corresponds to the collinear DLLA. The mass scale  $M$  differs for vector and axial-vector channels,  $M = m_\rho, m_{a_1}$  thus introducing non-universality of  $\sigma(x, r)$ . For charmed-strange states we put  $M^2 = 4 \text{ GeV}^2$ .

The CCFR Collaboration measurements [13] of the structure function  $F_L$  and  $F_T = 2xF_1$  as a function of  $Q^2$  for two smallest values of  $x$  are shown in Fig. 2. From Fig. 2 it follows that we strongly overestimate  $F_L$  and underestimate  $F_T$  considerably. However, the sum of two structure functions,  $F_2 = F_L + F_T$ , shown in Fig. 3 is in reasonable agreement with data [2].

Also shown are the high statistics measurement of  $F_2$  from charged current  $\nu Pb$  interactions at smallest available  $x_{Bj} = 0.02$  by the CHORUS Collaboration [33] and  $F_2$  as measured by the CDHSW collaboration [32] in the  $\nu Fe$  DIS at  $x_{Bj} = 0.015$  (shown by squares in Fig. 3). The cs-component dominates the LSF  $F_L$  already at  $x_{Bj} = 0.0045$  and affects the slope of both  $F_L$  and  $F_2$  at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$ . Therefore, the extrapolation of experimentally measured  $F_2$  down to  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$  can hardly be used directly to test PCAC. The cs-contribution to  $F_2$  is quite considerable already at  $x_{Bj} = 0.0045$  and dominates  $F_2$  at  $x_{Bj} = 10^{-4}$  for  $Q^2 \lesssim m_c^2$  as shown in Fig. 3. The latter observation is important for planned tests of PCAC with high energy neutrino beams.

We underestimate  $F_2$  at moderately small  $x \gtrsim 0.01$  and small  $Q^2$  (valence component is not included). Besides, in our analysis of small- $x$  phenomena we rely upon the color dipole factorization (5) which is equally valid for small and large dipoles, in both perturbative and non-perturbative domains. However, two factors in (5) have different status. The CD cross section  $\sigma(r) = \sigma_{pt}(r) + \sigma_{npt}(r)$  is corrected for the effects of soft physics while the light-cone density of states  $|\Psi_L(r)|^2$  is of purely perturbative nature. Non-perturbative corrections to  $|\Psi_L(r)|^2$  at small  $Q^2$  may cause observable effects. In [6] it has been found that the color dipole models successfully tested against the DIS data from HERA underestimate  $F_L^{ud}(x, 0)$  defined by the Eq.(1). Particularly, our model with  $m_u = m_d = 0.15$  GeV reproduces only half of the empirical value  $f_\pi^2 \sigma_\pi / \pi$ , not quite bad for the model evaluation of the soft observable, although not satisfactory either. This may lead to the deficit of  $F_2$  in the kinematical region of moderately small  $x$  dominated by the  $ud$ -current.

It is worth noticing that the nuclear absorption is weaker for charmed-strange states. Therefore, there is a specific nuclear enhancement of the charm production compared to the excitation of light flavors. The analysis of nuclear effects in the CC DIS will be published elsewhere.

**5. Summary.** We developed the color dipole description of the phenomenon of charged current non-conservation in the neutrino DIS at small Bjorken  $x$ . We quantified the effect in terms of the tree level light-cone wave functions and found that the charmed-strange component of the longitudinal structure function is much larger than its light quark component

already at  $x \sim 0.01$ . We found also that the excitation of charm and strangeness dominates the structure function  $F_2(x, Q^2)$  at  $Q^2 \lesssim m_c^2$  and small enough  $x$ . A structure function analysis [2, 32, 33] of neutrino DIS data lends support to our predictions.

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